



ED GONZALEZ

City Council District H★NEWS

District H News for You!

A Guide to what's happening around your district.

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Meet the Staff:



Criselda Romero

A proud University of Houston-Downtown Alumni, Criselda graduated in 2009 with a BS in Political Science and minor in Arts.

In 2009, Criselda began working in Council Member Gonzalez's office as a CHIP Intern and was asked to stay on as Community Liaison in 2010.

She has worked and volunteered on several outreach programs. Her passion is public policy.

District H Team

Carlos Doroteo
Director of Public Affairs
Sheena Childs
Scheduler
John Daniel
Community Liaison
Criselda Romero
Community Liaison
Laura Thorp
Community Liaison
Interns: Eugene Phoenix
Myron Ross

Dear Neighbor,

My Team and I have been out in the neighborhoods of our District sponsoring and co-sponsoring many neighborhood events, some which are highlighted in this newsletter. I have been able to meet many involved and active community leaders making a difference in every part of District H. I would like to thank everyone who came out and participated and we extend an invitation to all in the District to become more involved in our future community events.

Sincerely,

Flood and Drainage Committee Coming to the Neighborhood



Council Member Costello and Gonzalez are bringing the Flooding and Drainage Committee meeting out to the District on April 27 at 6:30 pm at the West End Multi-Service Center, 170 Heights Blvd. This meeting is usually held at the City Hall Annex during business hours however both of the Council Members wanted to allow constituents an opportunity to become involved, by giving input into flooding and drainage issues.

Non-Profit Highlight: La Rosa Family Services

La Rosa Family Services has been servicing the Northside of Houston since 1995. It is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that specializes in assisting women, children, and families exposed to domestic abuse and violence.



Services offered include: individual counseling, support groups, crisis intervention, preventative education, legal assistance, and teen education. In addition the center annually holds Back to School and Toy Drives that give back to the community.

For more information regarding La Rosa Family Services visit www.larosafamilyservices.org or please contact the non-profit organization via telephone at 713.699.3974 or by email at laarosafamilyservices.org.

Ike Destroys Historic Heights Tree

Our office is watching this new tree continue to blossom!

On a bright sunny spring day in March of 1921 Pete Slawinski went down to White Oak Bayou and dug up a baby tree, brought it home and planted it in the front yard. He watered it and talked to it everyday to encourage growth. It grew up to be one of the finest shade trees on the block in the Houston Heights.



He wanted the perfect tree to shade the house during the summer. The tree survived Hurricane Carla in 1961, Hurricane Alicia in 1983 and Tropical Storm Allison in 2001 but did not survive Hurricane Ike in September 2008. Early in the morning of September 13th, the winds from Ike were so powerful that it pulled the tree out of the ground and onto its side missing the house and landed in the street. The root ball was so massive that the entire front yard was uprooted. The diameter of the tree was 6 feet. The tree provided much needed shade to the house in the summer. We watched the blue jays making nests in the tree during the spring time while the squirrels used it as a playground. In the fall the tree would shed its bark and new bark would grow for the spring.

Pete's tree has been replaced with a new "Shumard Red Oak" tree. Mr. David Temple from the Forestry Department along with City Council member Ed Gonzalez and his staff (John Daniel, Sheena Childs, Carlos Doroteo and Criselda Romero) and LaVerne's son-in-law Buster Pendley helped plant the new baby tree on November 7, 2009.

LaVerne Wisnewski Stephens, granddaughter of Pete Slawinski and her daughters Sheila Stephens Kraatz and Sharon Stephens Pendley, great-granddaughters of Pete would like to thank Councilman Gonzalez and his staff who were instrumental in replacing the beloved old tree where the old Sycamore tree once stood. The home located at 911 Cortlandt Street still remains in the family after 4 generations. -Story submitted by Sharon Stephens Pendley

If you would like to submit a story for our newsletter, please send it to districth@cityofhouston.net.

Upcoming Events:

**Monday,
April 26**

District H Satellite Office
(Open)
Heights Fire Station
107 W 12th Street
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Tuesday,
April 27**

District H Flooding and
Drainage Committee
Meeting
West End Multi-Service
Center
170 Heights Blvd.
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

**Sunday,
May 2**

Cinco De Mayo
Celebration
Northline Commons
4400 N. Fwy.
12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

District H Libraries

Carnegie
Neighborhood Library
1050 Quitman
77009

Flores
Neighborhood Library
110 North Milby
77003

Heights
Neighborhood Library
1302 Heights Blvd.
77008

Moody
Neighborhood Library
9525 Irvington
77076

Tuttle
Neighborhood Library
702 Kress
77020

**We're on the Web
visit us at**

District H Webpage



or visit us on Facebook

Herrera Elementary

Council Member Gonzalez was invited and honored to speak to students from Herrera Elementary on March 9, 2010.

The children were able to take a tour of City Hall, meet Council Member Gonzalez, and ask him various questions. He encouraged the students to work hard, continue to ask questions, always be willing to learn and set their goals toward college.



Rosemont Bridge Groundbreaking

On March 13, 2010, Council Member Gonzalez and members of his staff attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Rosemont Bridge. When completed, the Rosemont Bridge will provide pedestrians, bicyclists, and joggers a safe route across Memorial Drive to Buffalo Bayou Park. The bridge will span Memorial Drive and Buffalo Bayou and connect the two sides of Buffalo Bayou Park, west of Eleanor Tinsley Park and east of the Studemont-Montrose Boulevard Bridge. The new bridge will also connect to a new trail being built along Memorial Drive. This trail will run from the Sabine Street Bridge to Spotts Park and will allow joggers a new alternative for outdoor exercise.

Mayor Annise Parker, Tom Dornbusch, President of Super Neighborhood #22, Joe Turner, Director of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Representatives from Memorial Heights Redevelopment Authority TIRZ #5, Ann Lents from the Houston Parks Board, and Ralph De Leon from the City of Houston Finance Department TIRZ Program were all in attendance.

North Central Annual Egg Hunt

Council Member Gonzalez co-sponsored this year's North Central Easter Egg Hunt on March 27, 2010. The free event was hosted by the North Central Civic Association along with Houston Parks and Recreation Department.



Many residents in our District enjoyed a day of music, fun, gathering of eggs, prizes, and taking pictures with the Easter Bunny.

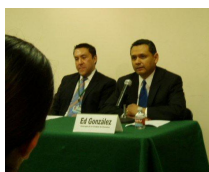
New Hours For Houston Public Libraries

The Houston Public Library system will be reducing their hours of operation beginning April 17, 2010. All of the libraries located in District H are listed in the sidebar. The Houston Public Library System is currently assessing the new library hours for the next six months in an effort to thoroughly investigate the impact of the hour changes. District H neighborhood libraries will be open Monday and Thursday from 11am to 7pm and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10am to 6pm. Please note, District H neighborhood libraries will be closed on the weekends.

For more details on a particular location, please visit www.hpl.lib.tx.us or www.houstonlibrary.org/new-hours-of-operation

Census 2010: Be Counted

Council Member Gonzalez attended several public events throughout the city to raise awareness of the importance of being counted.



Currently, Harris County with a participation rate of 63% is below the State (64%) and National (69%) participation levels. Please do your part and mobilize your neighbors to participate today.

Beginning May 1st, there will be a door to door campaign throughout the city. Please make sure that the census taker arriving at your door is wearing an I.D. badge with the US Census Bureau logo. If you're unsure about the identification of a census taker, you may ask for a phone number to verify that this person is indeed a census

Collection of Yard Trimmings: New Compostable Bag Program

Effective April 5th, City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department crews will only pick up yard trimmings in City-approved compostable bags AND they must be placed at the curb. Approved compostable bags are available at Houston area retailers. For a complete listing of retailers or for more information regarding these changes, please log onto the Solid Waste Management Department's website at

www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/index.html

ALERT: All yard trimmings placed in the garbage cart, or in any other type of container or bag will not be collected.



Tips to Reduce Yard Waste

On March 20, 2010, Council Member Gonzalez presented "Green Your Yard". The event explored alternatives to bagging leaves and lawn clippings. Representatives from Houston Parks and Recreation Department and Solid Waste Management Department demonstrated techniques in composting and grasscycling.

1. Mow frequently and leave grass clippings on lawn
2. Upgrade your mower (mulching mowers available in stores)
3. Construct personal compost pile and turn your yard trimmings into nutrient-rich soil

Helpful Contact Information:

City Help Line: 311 or 713-837-0311
United Way Help Line: 211
Crisis of Houston Central: 713-468-5463
Mayor's Citizen Assistance Office: 832-393-0947
Police (non-emergency): 713-884-3131
Mayor's Anti-Gang Office: 832-393-0931

District H

Office Contact Info:

900 Bagby, 1st Floor
P. O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562
Phone: 832-393-3003 Fax: 832-393-3224

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us your email address to:**
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